

# **Blue Ribbon Commission on Transportation Investment Strategies Committee**

## **Final Meeting Summary**

**February 10, 1999**

**Present:** Dale Stedman, Chair, Bill Lampson, Vice Chair, Don Briscoe, Peter Hurley, Bettie Ingham, John Kelly, Charles Mott, Patricia Otley

**Absent:** R. Ted Bottiger, Senator Mary Margaret Haugen, Arthur Jackson, Jr., Jennifer Joly, Representative Maryann Mitchell

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The Chair called the meeting to order at 8:45 a.m. He reviewed the minutes from the January 14<sup>th</sup> meeting and asked for any proposed revisions. The Committee approved the minutes from the previous meeting as presented.

### **Congestion: Definitions, Causes, and Trends**

Charlie Howard, Planning Director for the Washington State Department of Transportation, presented information on definitions of congestion, its causes, and recent trends. Hard copies of the presentation materials were included in the meeting packet.

Mr. Howard also discussed the efforts of Washington State Transportation Commission's Congestion Relief group. Committee members agreed to try to coordinate with this and other ongoing efforts, such as the Transportation Commission's update of the Washington Transportation Plan, to avoid duplication and confusing the public with competing plans.

### **Congestion: Supply Side Solutions**

Daniel Malarkey from ECONorthwest briefly presented information on congestion in Washington State. He also reviewed the causes of congestion presented in Anthony Downs' book, *Stuck in Traffic*, which members read prior to the meeting. Committee members discussed the supply-side solutions to congestion presented in the table on page 152 of the book.

### **Committee Discussion**

Committee members discussed various issues related to their work plan and how best to reach agreement on recommendations:

- Members expressed interest in getting the key players to the table to find the proper mix of transportation alternatives. The Committee discussed approaches to engaging key

constituents in the Commission's work. The Committee agreed that this was important and asked staff to report on plans to integrate interaction and feedback from key constituencies with the review of policy options.

- Committee members would like to see specific solutions presented with cost information and effectiveness already evaluated. Also, they also want to see case studies from different states where various policies have worked or failed in the past. Staff noted that by next meeting the Committee members would begin getting policy papers to address these issues each month.
- Committee members discussed learning more about the opinions of those who voted on Referendum 49. Staff reported that no exit surveys were conducted at the time. Without this data, it is difficult to separate out voters' support for increased transportation funding from the reduction in Motor Vehicle Excise Tax that was part of the Referendum 49.
- Committee members asked the Commission staff to gather demographic information on population, housing, and employment for Washington over the next 20 years and summarize it into a brief report.
- Committee members asked that each meeting incorporate a briefing on the actions of the Steering Committee so Committee members understand the direction that the full Commission is headed.

Committee staff and the chair noted these items and agree to address them over the course of future meetings.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:10 p.m.